The STATE of the

BIRTH

TEMPORAL and SPIRITUAL,

AND THE

DUTY and STATE

OF

A Child, Youth, Young-Men, Aged-Men and Fathers in the Truth.

Also, shewing

That Children are the Heritage of the Lord, and that he hath a Glory in them.

By GEORGE FOX.

Children are the Heritage of the Lord, and he hath a Glory in them, and they are to be trained up in the Fear of the Lord.

That your Children may be blessed after you, Prov. 20. 7.

And may be blessed with thee, Psal. 147. 13. *for blessed is every one that feareth the Lord,* Psal. 128. 1.

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The State of the BIRTH Temporal and Spiritual, &c.

THE State and Duty of a Child, Youth and Young-men, and the State of Aged-men and Fathers, it is the Lord that doth bring to the Birth. *David* ſaith, *My Subſtance was not hid from thee when I was made in ſecret*, &c. *Thine Eyes did ſee my Subſtance, yet being imperfect, and in thy Book all my members were written, which in continuance were faſhioned, when as yet there were none of them; for thou poſſeſſedſt my reins when thou coveredſt me in my Mothers Womb.* Here you may ſee Gods infinite and All-ſeeing Eye, Work and Providence; the Darkneſs nor Secrets hide not from God, but the Night ſhineth to him as the Day, and the Darkneſs and the Light are alike to his All-ſeeing Eye, who made both; and therefore all are to conſider how God hath made them, and faſhioned them, *Pſal.* 139.

And the Lord ſaith in *Iſai.* 66. *Shall I bring to the Birth, and not cauſe to bring forth, ſaith the Lord? Shall I cauſe to bring forth and ſhut the Womb, ſaith my God?* So here you may ſee, it is the Lord that faſhions in the Womb, and brings it forth, both the Natural birth and the Spiritual birth, and opens the Womb and ſhuts the Womb, both the womb of the Morning and of Eternity, and of the Natural.

And the Lord ſaid to *Jeremiah*, in chap. 1. *Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee, and before thou cameſt out of the womb, I ſanctified thee, &c.* And ſo, here all may ſee, and conſider, and know themſelves to be the great Work of God, that when God that forms and faſh'ons you in the Womb, and brings to a Birth, and hath brought you forth, that you may chuſe the Good and and forſake the Evil; that you may remember and conſider that you are the Work of the Lord, and remember your Creator, and who hath faſhioned you and formed you in the Womb, and hath brought you to a birth, and hath brought you forth to fear, and ſerve, and worſhip, and honour him that hath made thee, and brought thee forth; for as *Solomon* ſaith in *Eccleſ.* 12.

Remember

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, whilst the evil days come not, or before the evil days do come. Now this is the Duty of all Youth, Males or Females, to remember their Creator, and let him not go out of their memory, so that they may be fitted to stand in the evil days when they come; for when they grow up to be young-men, then the evil days will appear, in which they may be tempted to *Adultery, Fornication, Drunkenness, Theft, Murder, Lying, Cousening, Cheating, Unrighteousness, Ungodliness, Lightness, Wantonness, Pleasures,* and other evils, by which they may forget their Creator by going into such evils, when they are tempted to such things; tho evil days are come to try Youth; for they that yield unto such evils before-mentioned forget their Creator, and forsake him; for *Solomon* saith, *Train up a Child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it, Prov.* 22. 6. Here is the Duty of Parents, and the Duty of Children, which is to be practised and followed. Now here is the Duty of Youth, *To remember his Creator in the days of his youth, before the evil days come*; *But what must we do when we come to be young men? What is their means and duty?* *David* declareth in *Psal.* 119. 9. *Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his ways? By taking heed to thy Word, &c. Thy Word I have hid in my Heart, and do meditate on thy Word, that I might not sin against thee.* So now, for all *Young men* to take heed to the Word of God in their hearts, and hide it in their hearts, and to meditate upon it; for the Word is called a *Hammer*, and a *Sword*, and a *Fire*, to hammer down, and cut down, and burn up that which would defile them in their *Ways, Words* and *Hearts*.

And the Apostle saith, *That the Word of Faith which he preached was in their hearts and mouths to obey it, and to do it,* Rom. 10. *And the engrafted Word was able to save their Souls,* *James* saith. And *Peter* saith, *That they were to feed upon the sincere Milk of the Word; but they which are hearers of the Word, and not doers of the Word, deceive their own souls.* And Christ said to his Disciples, *Now ye are clean through the Word, &c.* So this Word will keep the Ways and the Hearts of Young men clean; the *Word of God*, which is a *sanctifying Word*, a *reconciling Word*; and Christ told the *Jews*, His Word had no place in them.

And again, he told the unclean *Jews*, *Ye have not his Word* (to wit, the Word of God) *abiding in you.* So these *Jews* made a great Profession of the Scriptures, but had not the Word of God abiding in them, *Joh.* 5. then they were not like to be made clean by it.

And Christ said, *Sanctifie them through thy Word; thy Word is Truth,* (to wit, his Disciples and Believers.) And again, Christ saith, *I have given them thy Word, and they have kept thy Word,* (namely, his Disciples) to wit, the Word of God, *Joh.* 17.

Now here you may see the Disciples kept the Word of God, which was the means to keep their Hearts, Ways and Words clean; but the *Jews*, *Priests*, *Scribes* and *Pharisees*, that made a great outward Profession of the Scriptures, whose ways were unclean, and mouths full of foul unclean words against Christ; Christ told them, *That the Word of God did not abide in them*: And therefore though they had the Scriptures, and made an outward Profession of them, like the Professors of our Age, and others, who go from the means, the Word of God in their hearts, to keep their Ways and Lips clean, and to sanctifie them. Therefore they plead for a *Body of Death* to the Grave, and a Purgatory when they are dead, who live in a Profession of the Letter without the Word.

And *John* saith, *I have written unto you young men, because you are strong, and the Word of God abideth in you, and you have overcome the wicked one*, viz. the Devil, by the Word of God, which was before the Devil was. So here you may see what is the means by which the *Young mens* ways are cleansed and sanctified, and what makes them strong, and to overcome the wicked one, the Word of God abiding in them, and therefore every Young man and all Young people are to love, and obey, and do the Word of God, by which their Ways, Words and Hearts and all may be kept clean; for the Word of God is a *Hammer* and a *Sword*, to hammer down and cut down the Devil and his works, and a *Fire* to burn them up: So it is the Word of Power, the Word of Wisdom, the Word of Reconciliation, and the Word of Patience by which they overcome.

Now concerning Aged men, or Fathers in the Truth, *John* saith, *I have written unto you Fathers, because you have known him*

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that is from the beginning, to wit, Christ Jesus: And *John* writes as a Father himself, who saith; *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our Eyes, which we have look'd upon, and our hands have handled of the Word of Life; for the Life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you, that eternal Life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us* 1 Joh. 1.1,2.

So, here you may see not *John* in his *Epistle*, but also *John* in his *Evangelist* declares Christ in the beginning, and saith; *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and God was the Word; the same was in the beginning with God, and all things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made that was made; and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his Glory; the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth*, Joh. 1.

Now here you may see how *John* writes as a Father, that knew Christ in the beginning; and he writes to the Fathers that knew Christ in the beginning. So the Fathers knew him in the Glory that he had with the Father before the World began; and that all things were made by *Jesus Christ*: So they knew him as he was *God*, the *Word*; they knew Christ as he was a Man. *The Word was made Flesh, &c.* they knew Christ in the Promises and in the Prophesies; they knew him in the Figures, Types and Shadows made under the Law; they knew him, and of whom he was to be conceived, to wit, the Virgin; they knew him in his *Birth, Life, Doctrine, Preaching, Miracles, Sufferings, Death, Grave, Resurrection* and *Ascension into the Glory* with the Father and at his right hand; yea, *the Glory which he had with the Father before the World began.* So the *Fathers* have known [*Mark*] have known Christ from the *beginning*, 1 John 2. 14.

So here you may see the State of the *Birth Temporal* and *Spiritual*, and the Duty and State of *youth*, the Duty and State of *Young men* and *Young people*, and the State of *Fathers in the Truth*.

Kingston the tenth Month, 1682.

G. F.

DAvid saith, *Lo Children are an Heritage of the Lord, and the Fruit of the Womb is his Reward; as Arrows are in the hands of a mighty man, so are Children of youth: Happy is the man that hath his Quiver full of them, they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the Enemy in the Gate*, Psal. 127.

Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord, that walketh in his ways; for thou shalt eat the Labour of thine hands: Happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee, and thy Wife shall be as a fruitful Vine by the side of thine house; thy Children like Olive plants round about thy Table: Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord; yea, thou shalt see thy Childrens Children, and the Lord shall bless thee out of Sion, Psal. 128.

Now all you that do murmur against people that have many Children, and do complain and say, *That they do fill your Towns, Cities and Countries with Children*; and many times you that do so complain have few or no Children; and you are afraid that they should come to want, and that then you must be fain to relieve their necessities: And what then? What you do give to the poor you lend to the Lord, and he will repay it to you again, if they cannot; and this wanting mind is for want of Faith, and of God, who gives the increase of all, and is rich unto all that call upon him; and the Lord would have you to take notice, that Children are the Heritage of the Lord. And so, what you do give to the breeding, and nursing, and relieving of Children, you do it to the *Heritage of the Lord*, and the Lord hath many adopted Sons, that he hath taken to be his, *that have received the Adoption of Sons*, Gal. 4. And what if you that have no Children should do so? It was but a Cross to the grumbling or murmuring self, which many times have no Children and are discontent with the poor that have many; and do think much either to adopt them to your selves, and are afraid that they will be chargeable to you, namely, the Children that are the Heritage of the Lord; but the Lord that doth increase the Children which are his Heritage, he will take care for his Heritage, whether that murmuring complaining mind against poor people of having so many Children, you relieving them or no, he will take care for his Heritage, blessed be his Name for ever. *Amen.*

Sing

Sing unto God, ſing Praiſes to his Name, exalt him that rideth upon the Heavens by his Name JAH; *and rejoice before him, a Father of the Fatherleſs and a Judge of the Widow; God is in his holy habitation,* Pſal. 68. *The Sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our Fathers have told us, we will not hide them from their Children, ſhewing to the Generations to come the Praiſe of the Lord,* Pſal. 78. And *David* ſaith, *Let thy Work appear unto thy Servants, and thy Glory unto their Children, and let the Beauty of the Lord be upon us,* &c. Pſal. 90. 16.

See what heavenly Love he had to Children, *Gods Heritage*; ſo they are not of *Davids* mind, who think that they ſhall be undone by maintaining of poor peoples Children, which Children are Gods Heritage; and *David* ſaith, *Ye are bleſſed of the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth; the Heavens, even the Heavens are the Lords; but the Earth he hath given to the Children of Men,* Pſal. 115. 16. And the Lord ſaith to *David, If thy Children will keep my Covenant and my Teſtimony, that I ſhall teach them; their Children alſo ſhall ſit upon thy Throne for evermore,* Pſal. 132. 12. *Praiſe the Lord,* O Jeruſalem, *praiſe thy God,* O Sion; *for he hath ſtrengthened the Bars of thy Gates; he hath bleſſed thy Children with thee.* Theſe are they that keep in the Covenant, and the Teſtimony that God doth give them that have his Bleſſings.

And you may ſee the Tenderneſs of *Joſeph* to his Father, and to his Children, and to his Childrens Children in the days of the Famine, when they were in *Egypt, Gen.* 45. Here he was tender of Children, which are the Heritage of the Lord; and the Lord ſaid, *Thrice in the year ſhall all your men children appear before the Lord God of* Iſrael, *Exod.* 34. 23. Here you may ſee the care the Lord takes, that Children, which are his Heritage, ſhould be acquainted with him; which ought to be the duty of all Parents. And the Lord ſaid, *Take heed to thy ſelf, and keep thy Soul diligently, leſt thou forget the things which thine eyes have ſeen, leſt they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life; but teach thy Sons and thy Sons Sons eſpecially in the day that thou ſtoodſt before the Lord thy God in* Horeb; *when the Lord ſaid unto me,* (*viz.* Moſes) *Gather me the people, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they ſhall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their Children.* Here you may ſee the care

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of the Lord, both to his people, and how they are commanded to teach their Children; yea, their Sons Sons; the Children that are Gods Heritage might be instructed by their Parents the things of God; *Deut.* 4. 10.

And in the Old Testament the Lord Gord said, *Thou shalt do no manner of work on the Sabbath day, thou nor thy Son, nor thy Daughter, nor thy Man Servant, nor the Stranger which is within thy Gate*; they were all to rest on the Sabbath day, in the Old Covenant; so were all the Believers, whether they be Masters or Mistresses, Sons, Daughters or Strangers, to rest in Christ in the New Covenant; for he that believeth is entred into Christ the rest, and ceased from his own works; as God did from his. Know therefore this day, and consider in thine heart (*Mark*) in thine heart, *that the Lord he is God in Heaven above, and upon the Earth beneath, there is none else, so with the Spirit of God ye may know him in Heaven, and know him in Earth; and thou shalt keep therefore his Statutes and his Commandments, which I command you this day, that it may go well with thee, and thy Children after thee, that thou maist prolong thy days upon the Earth.* Here again you may see what care the Lord takes for his people and his Children, *Deut.* 39. 40.

And you may see in *Nehemiah* 5. 5. how they complained of them and their Children, their Sons and Daughters were brought into Bondage *because of going astray from the Lords Commandments*: And in *Nehemiah* 9. how they had *rebelled against the good Spirit of the Lord, that he gave them to instruct them.* And is not this the cause now that *Christians* are in confusion? for rebelling against Gods good Spirit, though they may make an outward Profession of the New Testament; as the *Jews* did of the Old.

Thus saith the Lord in *Isai.* 49. *Behold! I lift up my hand to the* Gentiles, *and set up my Standard to the people*: And is not this Standard Christ? *And they shall bring their Sons in their Arms, and thy Daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders*: And where do they carry their Children and their Sons and Daughters? Is it not to Christ, who teacheth them and blesseth them? The Lord saith; *I will make all my Mountains a high way, and my high way shall be exalted.* And is not God and Christs high way his *Light*? that is, the path of the

the juſt, and high way to the perfect day; *And Kings ſhall be nurſing Fathers, and Queens nurſing Mothers, &c.* And that will be a happy day when they come to nurſe Chriſts Chickens, Doves, Lambs, Babes and little Children; Then Perſecution will ceaſe for not taking *Oaths*, and *ſwearing*, and for not *paying of Tythes*, and for not *going to the Worſhip* at *Temples made with hands*; and then Chriſts Doctrine will be obeyed; who ſaith *Swear not at all, but let your Yea be Yea, and your Nay Nay*, &c. And then every one that hath received freely from Chriſt will *give it freely*, as he commands; then every one will know their *Bodies are the Temples of the living God*; and then every one will *walk in the Light, Gods high way*, which ſhall be exalted; *and in it they have fellowſhip one with another, and the Blood of Chriſt the Son of God cleanſeth you from all ſin.*

And *Iſaiah* 54. *All thy Children ſhall be taught of the Lord; and great ſhall be the peace of thy Children that are taught of the Lord: in Righteouſneſs ſhall they be eſtabliſhed, that are taught of the Lord: Thou ſhalt be far from oppreſſion; thou ſhalt not fear, and from terror; for it ſhall not come nigh thee that art taught of the Lord: Behold, they ſhall gather, but not by me:* ſo then it is by the wicked Spirit; whoſoever ſhall gather together againſt thee ſhall fall for thy ſake, *that are taught of the Lord; no Weapon that is formed againſt thee ſhall proſper; and every Tongue that ſhall riſe againſt thee in Judgment thou ſhalt condemn*, &c. *This is the Heritage of the Servants of the Lord, and the Righteouſneſs is of me*, ſaith the Lord. And in 1 *King.* 2. 4. *David* ſaith, *That the Lord may confirm his Word which he ſpake concerning me; ſaying, If thy Children take heed to their way to walk before me in Truth with all their hearts and with all their ſouls, there ſhall not fail thee* (ſaid he) *a man to ſit on the Throne of* Iſrael: 1 King. 8. 25. *ſo that thy Children take heed to their way, and walk before me, as thou haſt walked before me* (to wit, *David.*)

Now here you may ſee that not walking in the Truth before the Lord with all their ſouls, and their Hearts, made ſuch confuſion among the *Jews*, and likewiſe makes, or hath made ſuch confuſion among the *Chriſtians*, for not walking before God in the Truth, kept them off the Throne of *Iſrael*; and therefore Children are

to ſucceed their Fathers path in the Truth, if they will be accepted and exalted by the Lord, and if they do enjoy the Comfort of the Lord as their Fathers did with the Promiſe; as 1 *King.* 2. 4. & 8. 25.

In *Micah* 2. he declareth againſt their Oppreſſion, and reproves the *Jews* for their Injuſtice and Idolatry; and ſaith, *The Women of my people have you caſt out from their Houſes, from the Children have ye taken away my Glory* (to wit) the Lords; for Children are the Lords Heritage, and he hath a Glory in them.

And *Joel* declareth ſundry Judgments of God, and exhorts the *Jews* to obſerve them, and bids the Old men *tell their Children of it; and let your Children tell their Children, and let their Children tell another Generation*; See what care was here, and watches ſet up, that Childrens Children might eſcape the Judgments of God by their walking in the Truth, and keeping to the Lord with all their hearts; and Children which were the Lords Heritage were to warn and tell one another to walk in the fear and way of the Lord with their whole hearts, that he may have his Glory in them, and their Children, which are his Heritage.

An you may ſee in *Luke* 19. 43. 44. the Judgments that Chriſt pronounceth upon the *Jews* and their Children, that diſobeyed God, and did not believe in him; and Chriſt ſaith, *While ye have the Light believe in the Light, that ye may become Children of the Light*: Here Chriſt encourages his Believers with a new Name that believe in the Light (to wit) *Children of the Light*, Joh. 12. 36. And *Paul* ſaith to the Believers in the Light; *Ye were ſometimes in Darkneſs* (that was when they did not believe in the Light) *but now are ye Light in the Lord, walk as Children of the Light*, Epheſ. 5. 8. *Ye are all the Children of the Light, and the Children of the Day; we are not of the Night, nor of Darkneſs*, 1 Theſ. 5. 5. Theſe are the Believers in the Light, as Chriſt commands.

And *John* ſaith, *My little Children* (1 Joh. 2. 2.) *theſe things I write unto you that you ſin not.* &c. *and if any man ſins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jeſus Chriſt the righteous*, &c. [but they muſt take heed of ſinning wilfully] *I write to you little Children, becauſe your Sins are forgiven you for his Name ſake* [here is a comfort to Chriſts little Children.] Again, *John* ſaith to little Children, *It is*

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the last time; and as ye have that Antichrist should come, even now are many Antichrists, whereby we know that it is the last time; they went out from us (to wit, the *Antichrists*) *but they were not of us* (to wit, the elect members of the Church of Christ) *for if they had been of us they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out from us that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. And these things I have written unto you concerning them that seduce you; but the Anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and you need not that any man teach you, but as the same Anointing teacheth you all things, and is Truth, and is no Lye; and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him: And now, little Children, abide in him* (to wit, Christ, &c.) *Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not; whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him: Little Children, let no man deceive you, he that doth Righteousness is righteous even as he is righteous; He that committeth sin is of the Devil; for the Devil sinned from the beginning; for this purpose the Son of God was made manifest, that he might destroy the works of the Devil. Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit sin, for his seed remains in him, and he cannot sin because he is born of God;* In this the Children of God are manifest from the Children of the Devil, which is a clear manifestation and distinction.

Again, *John* saith, *My little Children, let us not love in Word, neither in Tongue, but in Deed and in Truth, hereby we know that we are of the Truth, and shall assure our hearts before him: This is a good Tryal, little Children,* 1 Joh. 3. *Ye are of God, little Children, and ye have overcome them* (to wit, Antichrist, and the World and its God) *because greater is he that is in you, than he that's in the World;* (a good reason to little Children, the greater to overcome the lesser) *and every one that loveth him,* (to wit, God that begot him) *loveth him also that is begotten of him; by this we know that we love the Children of God, when we love God and keep his Commandments; this is a good tryal and a manifestation,* 1. Joh. 5.

And *Paul* saith to the *Galatians* in chap. 4. *My little Children, of whom I travel in birth again, until Christ be formed in you:* This is a good Travel, which should be every true Christians, and not to travel to persecute Christ, where he is formed within his people; for that is

a bad Travel. And *John* writes to the elect Lady and her Children, whom he loved in the Truth, *&c.* and said, *I rejoyced greatly that I found thy Children walking in the Truth*, &c. *this is cause of great Joy to see Gods Children walk in the Truth.* Again, he writes; Gaius, *whom I love in the Truth* (said he) *I have no greater Joy than to hear that thy Children walk in the Truth*, 3 Epist. of *John*. Now this is a concern for all *true Christians*, that they and their Children walk in the truth, that they may have the joy and comfort of them in the Lord and his Truth in this world and in the world to come. *And every one that names the name of Jesus let them depart from iniquity*, and not live in Iniquity, and to see that their Children do depart from Iniquity; for *David* saith, *The Lord hates all workers of Iniquity*; and saith, *Depart from me all ye workers of Iniquity*; and therefore train up all your Children in the nurture and fear of the Lord, that both you & they may all serve God in his Spirit, in your Creation & Generation; for Children are the *Heritage of the Lord*, and ought to be trained up in his Fear, and serve and worship him in his Spirit and Truth; for it is the Lord that gives the increase of them all; it is he that brings to the Birth, and gives power to bring forth, whether it be *Natural* or *Spiritual*, and the Life and Breath, and the Souls of all is in his hand and power.

I was by him as one brought up with him, I was daily his delight, rejoycing always before him, rejoycing in the habitable parts of the Earth; and my delights are with the Sons of men: Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye Children; for blessed are they which keep my Ways, hear Instruction, be wise, and refuse it not, Prov. 8. Here you may see the Eternity of Wisdom, which is to be desired for the Blessing it brings.

The Apostle *Paul* tells the *Corinthians*, *That I have espoused you to one Husband, that I may present you as a chaste Virgin to Christ* 2 Cor. 11. 2.

THE END.